Amendments to the Claims:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A drop emitting device comprising:

a linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel columnar arrays of ink drop generators, the linear array extending along an X-axis, and the columnar arrays being oblique to the X-axis;

each columnar array comprised of a first sub-column of ink drop generators that is interleaved with a second sub-column of ink drop generators such that each ink drop generator in the first sub-column is physically separated from every other ink drop generator in the first sub-column by at least a portion of one of the ink drop generators from the second sub-column;

a first ink manifold;

a second ink manifold;

wherein the first ink manifold is fluidically coupled to the first sub-columns of ink drop generators of each columnar array and is not fluidically coupled to the second sub-column of each columnar array ~~are fluidically coupled to a first ink manifold~~, and

wherein the second ink manifold is fluidically coupled to the second sub-columns of ink drop generators of each columnar array and is not fluidically coupled to the first sub-column of each columnar array ~~are fluidically coupled to a second ink manifold~~.

2. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 1 wherein the columnar arrays of drop generators comprise linear arrays of drop generators.

3. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 1 wherein the drop generators comprise piezoelectric drop generators.

4. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 1 wherein the drop generators respectively include an ink pressure chamber, an outlet channel, and a nozzle.

5. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 1 wherein the first ink manifold receives ink of a first color, and the second ink manifold receives ink of a second color.

6. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 1 wherein the first ink manifold and the second ink manifold receive ink of a same color.

7. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 1 further including a plurality of finger manifolds wherein each first sub-column of drop generators is fluidically connected to a first finger manifold and each second sub-column of drop generators is fluidically connected to a second finger manifold.

8. (Previously Presented) The drop emitting device of claim 1 further including a plurality of side by side finger manifolds, wherein for each columnar array the first sub-column of drop generators is fluidically connected to a first finger manifold and the second sub-column of drop generators is fluidically connected to a second finger manifold that is adjacent the first finger manifold.

9. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 1 wherein the drop generators receive melted solid ink.

10. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 1 wherein the drop generators are implemented in a laminar stack of metal plates.

11. (Currently Amended) A drop emitting device comprising:

a linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel columnar arrays of ink drop generators;

the linear array of columnar arrays of ink drop generators extending along an X-axis; and

the columnar arrays of drop generators being oblique to the X-axis,

wherein each columnar array is comprised of a first sub-column of ink drop generators that is interleaved with a second sub-column of ink drop generators such that each ink drop generator in the first sub-column is physically separated from every other ink drop generator in the first sub-column by at least a portion of one of the ink drop generators from the second sub-column.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 11 wherein the drop generators comprise piezoelectric drop generators.

14. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 11 wherein the drop generators respectively include an ink pressure chamber, an outlet channel, and a nozzle.

15. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 11 wherein the drop generators receive melted solid ink.

16. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 11 wherein the drop generators are implemented in a laminar stack of metal plates.

17. (Currently Amended) A drop emitting device comprising:

a first linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel first columnar arrays of ink drop generators, the first linear array of first columnar arrays of ink drop generators extending along a X-axis, and the first columnar arrays being oblique to the X-axis;

each first columnar array of ink drop generators comprised of a first linear sub-column of ink drop generators that is interleaved with a second linear sub-column of ink drop generators such that each ink drop generator in the first sub-column is physically separated from every other ink drop generator in the first sub-column by at least a portion of one of the ink drop generators from the second sub-column;

wherein a first ink manifold is fluidically coupled to the first sub-column of ink drop generators of each columnar array and is not fluidically coupled to the second sub-column of each columnar array ~~are fluidically coupled to a first ink manifold~~, and

wherein a second ink manifold is fluidically coupled to the second sub-column of ink drop generators of each columnar array and is not fluidically coupled to the first sub-column of each columnar array ~~are fluidically coupled to a second ink manifold~~.

a second linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel second columnar arrays of ink drop generators, the second linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel second columnar arrays of ink drop generators extending along the X-axis, the second columnar arrays being oblique to the X-axis, and the second linear array of columnar arrays being

adjacent the first linear array of first columnar arrays along a second axis orthogonal to the X-axis;

each second columnar array comprised of a third linear sub-column of ink drop generators that is interleaved with a fourth linear sub-column of ink drop generators;

wherein the third linear sub-column of ink drop generators is fluidically coupled to a third ink manifold; and

wherein the fourth linear sub-column of ink drop generators is fluidically coupled to a fourth ink manifold.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 17 wherein the drop generators comprise piezoelectric drop generators.

20. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 17 wherein each of the drop generators comprises an ink pressure chamber, an outlet channel, and a nozzle.

21. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 17 wherein the first ink manifold receives ink of a first color, and the second ink manifold receives ink of a second color.

22. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 17 wherein the first ink manifold and the second ink manifold receive ink of a same color.

23. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 17 further including a plurality of finger manifolds wherein each first sub-column of drop generators is fluidically connected to a first finger manifold and each second sub-column of drop generators is fluidically connected to a second finger manifold.

24. (Currently Amended) The drop emitting device of claim 17 further including a plurality of side by side finger manifolds, wherein as to each first columnar array the first linear sub-column of drop generators is fluidically connected to a first finger manifold and the second linear sub-column of drop generators is fluidically connected to a second finger manifold that is adjacent the first finger manifold.

25. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 17 wherein the drop generators receive melted solid ink.

26. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 17 wherein the drop generators are implemented in a laminar stack of metal plates.

27. (Currently Amended) A drop emitting device comprising:

a linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel first columnar arrays of ink drop generators, the linear array of first columnar arrays of ink drop generators extending along a X-axis, and the first columnar arrays being oblique to the X-axis;

a second linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel second columnar arrays of ink drop generators, the second linear array of side by side substantially mutually parallel second columnar arrays of ink drop generators extending along the X-axis, the second columnar arrays being oblique to the X-axis; and

the second linear array of columnar arrays being adjacent the first linear array of first columnar arrays along a second axis orthogonal to the X-axis,

wherein each first columnar array is comprised of first and second linear sub-columns of ink drop generators that are interleaved with each other such that each ink drop generator in the first sub-column is physically separated from every other ink drop generator in the first sub-column by at least a portion of one of the ink drop generators from the second sub-column, and each second columnar array is comprised of third and fourth linear sub-columns of ink drop generators that are interleaved with each other such that each ink drop generator in the third sub-column is physically separated from every other ink drop generator in the third sub-column by at least a portion of one of the ink drop generators from the first sub-column.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 27 wherein the drop generators comprise piezoelectric drop generators.

30. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 27 wherein the drop generators respectively include an ink pressure chamber, an outlet channel, and a nozzle.

31. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 27 wherein the drop generators receive melted solid ink.

32. (Original) The drop emitting device of claim 27 wherein the drop generators are implemented in a laminar stack of metal plates.